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Aug 29th 2018

Via ECFS  
Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: In the Matter of Petition of USTelecom for Forbearance Pursuant to  
47 U.S.C. Section 160(c); WC Docket No. 18-141; Category 1**

Dear FCC,

Until my husband and I moved to our new home six years ago our only option for Internet service was Comcast. Period. There were no other carriers available, and every year we would have to wrangle with the truly terrible customer service dept. to try and keep affordable Internet service, from a company who had no incentives to do so since we had no other options. We dropped unnecessary services like cable TV and settled for slower speeds, just to afford basic Internet service.

When we moved we were happy to find a local alternative with Sonic Net. They had just started offering basic Internet in our area, and we were so happy to be free of the Comcast monopoly we signed up immediately. Over the years we've been courted with promises of lower pricing / faster speeds from our old monopoly but we always stick to supporting our local competitor, happy to watch them grow and expand.

Competition is necessary to drive affordable pricing and responsive customer service. Internet has become such an important commodity it needs this protection even more. Please continue to allow small broadband providers to thrive and grow by keeping these rules that allow them access to our communities.

Thank you.

Tera Hebert